

NOTES ON THE GENUS SCHIZOPUS WITH A KEY
TO THE SPECIES

(Coleoptera, Buprestidæ)

BY MONT A. CAZIER

University of California, Berkeley

During the past two years, specimens of this rare and phylogenetically important genus have been taken in considerable numbers and various new and interesting facts have been observed. There are only two described species in the genus, one of which, *Schizopus sallei* Horn, has been known only from the unique female type and the other, *Schizopus laetus* Lec., from an occasional but rare specimen.

It was early observed that in *laetus* there was a good deal of sexual dimorphism, the male having the elytra brownish-testaceous, the female brilliant blue or green. Most taxonomists interested in this genus have been looking for the male of *sallei* in order to see what the sexual dimorphism would be, in as much as the female was known to have the elytra brownish-testaceous similar to the male of *laetus*. It was the good fortune of Mr. I. M. Ferguson and J. R. Warren, collecting at Mariposa, Mariposa County, California, on the summer 49 course of the University of California to obtain two specimens each of this rare species. One specimen collected was a male and has disclosed the astonishing fact that there is very little sexual dimorphism in this species. The differences between male and female will be pointed out in a brief description of the male which, to the author's knowledge, has never before been described.

SCHIZOPUS SALLEI Horn

Male similar to the female except for the venter of the abdomen which has the lateral margins not withdrawn from edge of elytra, the apical sternite shallowly emarginate at tip and the color dark cupreous-green with faint brownish tinges. In the female, the lateral margins of the abdomen are withdrawn from the edge of the elytra, the apical sternite is evenly rounded at tip and the under-surface is mottled brownish-testaceous. In the male, the dark brown vittæ extending from the humeral umbones do not reach the tip of the elytra, while in the female at hand they reach the tip but are narrowed in front. These markings are probably as variable as in the males of *laetus* which may have the green or blue sutural vittæ lacking or very broad. There are, however, no indications of humeral vittæ in *laetus* although in a

female specimen of *sallei* there are pronounced brown sutural vittæ as well as humeral vittæ.

Type locality, "Mariposa, Cala." (Horn, 1885). The male described above taken three miles south of Mariposa, about one mile south of Mormon Bar, June 13, 1938. It was collected within 25 yards of a small stream, on flowers of a species of Compositae and on grass.

In the early spring (April 30) of 1937 Mr. Hugh B. Leech, P. C. Ting and the author made a collecting trip to the Mojave Desert and obtained a good series of both males and females of *laetus* at Cronise Lake and Ludlow, San Bernardino County, California. These specimens were taken on the flowers of *Geraea canescens*, were very sluggish and were not observed in flight. During the same season it was understood that several other collectors took good series of this species in the same region. Collecting trips to this region at about the same season in previous years have failed to yield specimens of this genus, showing that the unusually wet spring of 1937 was apparently very favorable for *Schizopus*, as it was also for *Scarabaeidae*.

Since both species are very similar structurally, it will be necessary to rely upon color to distinguish between them in the key to follow. As far as known there is no intergradation in the coloration and, since it is the most readily discernible character, it will be freely used.

KEY TO SPECIES

- Pronotum dark brown to testaceous, femora brown to testaceous, elytra with humeral vittæ.....*sallei*
 Pronotum brilliant blue, green or cupreous-green, femora blue, green or cupreous-green, elytra without indication of humeral vittæ*laetus*

The writer wishes to express his gratitude to both Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Warren for two specimens of *sallei* and for information concerning the exact habitat from which they were taken.

STRATIOMYID FLY LARVAE IN HONEY BEES' NESTS

On February 1, 1939, Miss Nora K. Morres of the Santa Barbara Museum sent me some dipterous larvae which were invading a house from an old bees' nest which had been established in the chimney. Recently one of these emerged. It proved to be *Hermetria illucens* Linn., a European species, now well established here and there in this country.—Edwin C. Van Dyke.